

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 029118  
ORIGIN ORM-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY D/HA/ORM:GMETSON:CML

APPROVED BY D/HA:JLCARLIN

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R 091623Z FEB 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029118

FOL RPT GABORONE 0292 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAPE TOWN DURBAN  
JOHANNESBURG LONDON PRETORIA USIA WASHDC 4 FEB 77 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0292

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PINS, BC, SF

SUBJECT: SSRC'S SIMON MOKOENA ASKS USG ASSISTANCE

1. SSRC TREASURER SIMON MOKOENA ASKED TO SEE PAO AND  
EMBOFF FEBRUARY 1 TO PRESENT NAMES OF NINE NEWEST SOUTH  
AFRICAN STUDENT ARRIVALS (POUCHED TO CAPE TOWN). HE  
CONFIRMED THAT SSRC LEADER MASHININI HAD DEPARTED FOR  
LONDON, SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, AT REQUEST OF GOB WHICH  
FEARED FOR MASHININI'S SAFETY. MOKOENA SAID HE DOES  
NOT KNOW MASHININI'S ONWARD PLANS.

2. MOKOENA COMMENTED THAT REFUGEES URGENTLY NEED VARIOUS  
FORMS OF ASSISTANCE WITH HIGHEST PRIORITY BEING ADDITIONAL  
MONETARY HELP FOR FOOD AND HOUSING. HE SAID PULA 20  
DOLLARS 23) PER MONTH REFUGEE ALLOWANCE "NOT ADEQUATE  
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PAGE 02 STATE 029118

TO KEEP BODY AND SOUL TOGETHER".

3. HE THEN HANDED EMBOFF ANOTE ENTITLED "THE NEEDS OF  
EXILES" WHICH OUTLINED IN DETAIL FINANCIAL NEEDS AND  
"PROJECT OF TRYING TO GET PEOPLE OCCUPIED UNTIL OUR  
SCHOLARSHIPS COME" (TEXT BY SEPTTEL). HE EXPLAINED  
THE SERIOUS PROBLEM AMONG YOUNG SSRC FOLLOWERS IS

BORDOM, WHICH HAS LED TO PETTY CRIMINALITY. HE ASKED FOR BOOKS, MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS, WRITING MATERIALS AND SCHOOL EXERCISES. HE SAID STUDENTS ARE INTERESTED IN ORGANIZING DISCUSSION AND STUDY GROUPS IF THEY HAD PREMISES ON WHICH TO DO SO. PAO SHOWED MOKONA AROUND USIS LIBRARY AND PLANS TO ESTABLISH PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY DISCUSSION GROUP IN WHICH USG VIEWPOINTS CAN BE AIDED. MOKOENA LATER BROUGHT GROUP OF SSRC MEMBERS TO LIBRARY TO SIGN UP FOR CARDS AND TO CHECK OUT BOOKS.

3. COMMENTC: WE REGARD THE RETURN OF MOKOENA TO THE EMBASSY, AND HIS ACT IN VOLUNTEERING NAMES OF RECENTLY ARRIVED COLLEAGUES, AS PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO GET TO KNOW SSRC AND BETTER UNDERSTAND SITUATION AND ASPIRATIONS OF REFUGEES FROM SOUTH AFRICA. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BE ABLE TO HELP. FROM MOKOENA AND OTHER SOURCES, WE KNOW THAT COMBINED GOB AND UNHCR SUPPORT (23 DOLLARS PER MONTH) IS BELOW SUBSISTENCE LEVEL IN URBAN AREAS. WE CANNOT OVEREMPHASIZE OUR BELIEF THAT AN OFFER OF BILATERAL ASSISTANCE NOW WOULD BE EXTREMELY TIMELY -- EVEN IF ONLY TO MATCH THE FRG BILATERAL CONTRIBUTION (ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND D.M.) ANNOUNCED WITH FANFARE YESTERDAY. SUCH A GESTURE COULD HELP US RECOVER FROM ADVERSE EFFECTS STILL PLAGUING US AS A RESULT OF U.S. ABSTENTION OF BOTSWANA'S COMPLAINT IN THE UNSC. MEANWHILE, ASSISTANCE IN RELIEVING BOREDOM SHOULD BE THE LEAST WE CAN DO, ESPECIALLY PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR REFUGEE STUDENTS LIKE MOKOENA AND HIS FRIENDS. PAO IS URGENTLY ASKING  
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PAGE 03 STATE 029118

NEIGHBORING POSTS AND USIA WASHINGTON FOR SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE.  
NORLAND

UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009